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 FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOMAK 04//

TO AL ADAMS FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH51854

TOMAK 04

BREZHNEV - ASTRONAUTS

MOSCOW (AP) -- SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV MADE A STRONG BID FOR DETENTE AND A NEW TREATY OF LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS TODAY AS HE MET THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET CREWS OF THE SOYUZ-APOLLO SPACE MISSION.

"IF WE ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO WORK OUT THIS TREATY, IT WOULD BE OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY FOR YOU (AMERICANS) AND US BUT FOR ALL PEOPLE, FOR DOZENS AND DOZENS OF YEARS TO COME," THE COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF SAID.

BREZHNEV, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A CRIMEAN VACATION, MET WITH ASTRONAUTS GEN. THOMAS STAFFORD, VANCE BRAND AND DONALD SLAYTON AND COSMONAUTS ALEXEI LEONOV AND VALERY KUBASOV, IN A RECEPTION ROOM IN THE GREAT KREMLIN PALACE.

BREZHNEV TOLD THE SPACEMEN HE WAS AWAITING THE RETURN OF FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO TO "DISCUSS THE RESULTS AND VERY ESSENCE, THE MEANING OF THE NEW TREATY." GROMYKO IS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER.

REFERRING TO DETENTE, BREZHNEV SAID, "BOTH SIDES, THE U.S. AND SOVIET SIDES, SHOULD MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT FOR REALLY GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATION IN ALL ASPECTS FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW."

IN THE 35-MINUTE MEETING, BREZHNEV CONGRATULATED THE SPACEMEN ON THEIR HISTORIC JULY 17 LINKUP, SAYING "THIS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME TO GO ON WITH THIS WORK."

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MACFARLANE, RODMAN

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THE BREZHNEV VISIT WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TWO-WEEK
GOODWILL TOUR THE ASTRONAUTS ARE MAKING TO THE SOVIET UNION.
THE THREE, THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN WERE TO LEAVE TUESDAY FOR
LENINGRAD.
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